2.

POPERY AND TYRANNY:

OR, THE

Present State OF FRANCE:

In relation to Its

Government, Trade, Manners of the People, and Nature of the Countrey.

As it was sent in a Letter from an *English* Gentleman abroad, to his Friend in *England*.

Wherein may be seen the Tyranny the Subjects of *France* are under, being Enslaved by the two greatest Enemies to Reason, as well as to Christian or Humane Liberty, I mean *Popery* and *Arbitrary Power*.

Tunc tua res agitur Paries cum proximus ardet.

London, Printed in the Year 1679.

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Tant que ce Regiter Parlera comprendra ce dit.

London, Printed in the Year 1679.

SIR,

HAving received from you ſo good and ſo large an Account of your Affairs at home, with the great Fears you are in, I thought it ſome ſmall Retribution to give you ſome little Account of the Government here, and ſome little Obſervations I have been able to make ſince I came hither, which may ſomething inform you both of the Manner the Subjects of *France* live in, and the Strength of the *French* King, in caſe of any Deſign upon us.

Concerning the Government.

As to the Government of *France*; It is an Abſolute Monarchy, impoſed upon the People by a ſtanding, illegal, and oppreſſive Army. It is the Corruption of a Monarchy from the beſt tempered one (before the Uſe of States of *France* was laid aſide) to the double Tyranny of Popery and Arbitrary Power. Here you will find that Government in its Perfection, being ſupported by all the *Machiavilian* tricks of a corrupt Policy, and ſuffered by a People, who having firſt ſubmitted the freeſt part of them to the ſlavery of Popery, are eaſily brought to ſubmit the other to the Yoke of Oppreſſion.

Here the Prince is now only upon the Defenſive part, only to keep what he has got, which he has brought about now to be no very hard Task, having inſtilled into the People ſo great a Vanity of Conquering abroad, that they are prouder of having their King take a Town, than of

poſſeſſing any thing as their own, without being ſubject to the Griping hand of an Arbitrary Publican. I muſt confeſs, it has wrought ſo much with me, that it has made me, as often as I meditate upon the Afflictions of my Neighbours here, thank the Almighty, as much for having placed me under ſo good a Prince, and ſo good a Government, (as that of *England*) as for my daily Suſtenance: And really, Sir, it is only to be attributed to the goodneſs of Almighty God, and the Excellency of his Majeſties Temper, that we are not under as great Misfortunes as our Neighbours, having not wanted Ambitious and Ill men among our ſelves, who had they not been diſcovered, and curbed by ſome Noble Patriots, as well as diſcountenanced, and removed by his Majeſty, from his Perſon and Councels, might too ſoon have effected their wicked Deſigns.

You muſt excuſe me, Sir, if I have made ſuch a Digreſſion, it being in a thing ſo much concerns Me, and all of us; but fearing to trouble you with my thoughts of things, you (being upon the place) can beſt ſee into: I ſhall return to what I have promiſed, *viz.* Something of the preſent Government of *France*; or the manner of proceeding, after Tyranny and Arbitrary Power is come to be the ſettled Government, under an Active Popiſh Prince.

The Government of *France* is to conſidered, either in relation to its Subjects or Foreign Intereſt. As to the Subjects, the preſent ſtate is this: The Nobility of all ſorts are very much Oppreſs'd, and their Intereſts are to be broken, and rendred abſolutely dependent upon the Crown by theſe Means:

1. No Favourite ſuffered to form a Faction, or oblige Dependents, Affairs being Managed by three Upſtarts, only Aſſiſtants to the Prince, who Acts, and Determines all himſelf: and thus the Nobility and Gentry are totally laid aſide as to the Adminiſtration of Government.

2. As

2. As to Councel, they are rarely and with great Caution made Use of; and that only upon extraordinary Occasions; none of them being admitted to those Charges that do render it necessary: as the Prince of *Conde*, Marshal *Turin*, who are only made Use of in matters of War, and Foreign Enterprizes.

3. None of their Mediation admitted between the Prince and his Subjects, as to publick or private Favours, Rewards, Preferment, or any Affairs; laying them aside as to the Court-Interest.

4. All those Charges Military or Civil, that may render them Considerable, suppress or eclipsed, as the high Constable, high Admiral, and Colonel of the Infantry.

Governours of Provinces, Towns, Fortresses, are eclips'd by these means, by Intendants who are Superiours, placed in every Province, who usurp the whole Power under the Notion of Intendants, over Justices, Policy, and Finances, at first only ordained for Finances.

These render Account only to the King, who admits of no Superiour Intendant, or high Treasurer, nor Mediation of the Governour; who being thus divested of Power, is reduced also to his bare Pension; also the Profits and Privileges taken away which were considerable, and in Truth is now much the same thing with our Lord Lieutenants, as to quartering Souldiers, and other Military Affairs.

As to Towns and Fortresses, all Inland ones are demolish-ed, and Frontiers, such only as are thought necessary, kept up and maintained, all the French Companies formerly belonging to the Governours, suppress, no Possibility of false Musters, or making Use of Towns-men to fill up the Places, the King supplying his Garrisons out of his standing Army, and taking the Pay of the Provinces towards their Maintenance, and charging them every three Months, by select Companies out of the several Regiments, that the Governour and their Officers may not be able by

any Correſpondence to have Intreſt in them, or reap any Advantages for themſelves, notwithſtanding all which, the Charges are ſaleable, and rarely the greater Nobility admitted to them.

2. All Charges both in the Army, Law, Court and Revenue, are diminiſhed in number, and retrench'd in Profits, upon which the Nobility heretofore depended; they are beſide much impoveriſh'd,

1. By the late Expedition into *Flanders*, from which they were diſmiſſed without Pay or Recompence:

2. By retrenching their Privileges, as to Exemption from Tally, reſtraining it to one Farme or Manſion, and that in one Place, not exceeding two Ploughs.

3. By Project of reviewing the ancient Nobles.

4. By re-aſſuming all the demeſne Lands of the Crown as upon a Mortgage.

The Clergy is alſo overawed,

1. By ſtrict Viſitations, in point of Manners and Imployment of their Revenues.

2. By upholding the *Janſeniſts* againſt the *Jeſuits*, the Jeſuits upholding the Kings Authority againſt the Popes.

3. By threatning to ſubject the Religious to Epiſcopal Juriſdiction; to which I may add by having the Pope under his Girdle, whereby he extorts from the Religious great Aids, and ſuppreſſes all religious Societies, not exceeding ſuch a number, or wanting Royal Eſtabliſhment.

What concerns Offices and Officers, in this Manner.

1. Multitudes of them both in Reference to Law and Finances are ſuppreſt.

2. The Profits of Offices relating to the Law are diminiſhed by *Code Lewis*, and the Fees and Salaries of others regulated by new Edicts.

3. The

3. The Privileges of many of the Officers as to Tally are diminiſhed.

4. The *Pollet* is granted upon very hard Conditions, *viz.* to contribute to the new Company of Trade and *Candia*-Expedition, which is now at an end, by the Surrender of *Candia* to the *Turk*.

The *Pollet* is an ancient Payment of a certain Sum by each Office, in lieu whereof, the Officers have Power to diſpoſe of the ſame, though they dye (by Will or otherwiſe) but ſtill at the Election of the Prince, that if he refuſe, their Offices are but for Life; yet rarely, till this Princes time, hath this *Pollet* been denied.

5. All ſorts of Officers and Partiſans that have got conſiderably by Farming or Lending upon the Kings Revenue, are required by the *High Court of Juſtice*, in an Arbitrary way; *viz.* by comparing what they have got, with what their Places and Farms in Reaſon ought to yield them, and with what they were worth before, forcing to anſwer to the King the overplus.

6. All the Courts to which they relate, are awed; eſpecially that of Parliaments: who are forced to Regiſter, and Paſs the Kings Edicts of Courſe, without the uſual Formalities: ſuch as oppoſe him therein, being uſually baniſhed by him by Letters of *Cachet*.

7. The King takes away Offices at his pleaſure, and gives what Recompence he pleaſes.

As to what concerns Proteſtants, they are diminiſhed in their number, and weakened by theſe means.

1. By making them incapable of all Offices and Charges of Judicature, the Court of Parliament, and other high Charges in State or Army; and in truth, by making their Profeſſion an obſtacle to all Preferments.

2. Forbidding all Marriages between them and Catholicks.

3. Whenſoever they are turned, to make it highly Penal to Return.

The

The Names of the Nobility turned *Roman* Catholicks of late years, *Marſhal Turin*, *Le Duc de Duras*: and the *Counte de Lorge* his Brother: the *Count de Lorge Mountgomery*, *Meſſieurs de Pons*, two Brothers: *Mounſieur de St. Miſcua* in *Xaintoign*: *Mounſieur de la Roachel*: *Mounſieur de Pelliſon*: *Mounſieur* the Prince *de Tarrant* Son to the Duke of *Tours*.

4. Under Pretence that their Temples have been erected ſince the Edict of *Nantes* without Licence, or upon holy Ground belonging to the Catholick Church, as they call themſelves, demoliſhing Multitudes of them thereby, forcing them to the Inconveniency of four or five Leagues if not more, out of their reſpective City and Towns, and ſuppreſſing all private Chappels belonging to the Proteſtant Gentry, upon Pretence of Non-reſidence.

5. Demoliſhing all Places of Strength where they abode in Numbers, and erecting Cittadels to awe theſe Towns where they are numerous,

6. By taking away Hoſpitals and all other Proviſions for their Poor, given by Proteſtants, not allowing them to make any Gifts for Perpetuity, nor admitting them the Privilege of other Hoſpitals provided for the reſt of his Subjects.

7. By conniving at the Clergy, when contrary to Law, they force their Children from them, and concealing them from their Parents, bred them up in their own Religion.

8. By reſtraining Catholicks from taking Proteſtants Children their Apprentices, and prohibiting Catholicks from placing their Children with Proteſtants.

Touching the Commonalty, his Subjects, firſt the Burgois.

1. His Impoſitions are heavy upon them, ſaving, in ſuch Places where they exerciſe Forreign Trade, ſo that moſt of the inland Towns are much decayed.

He

2. He admits of no Corporations, or Companies amongſt them, whereby they might be formidable, as to Intereſt, or make themſelves Conſiderable in acquiring Wealth.

I have been informed by *Peaſants*, that out of that little which belonged to them, they conſtantly paid near two Thirds to the King: and that thoſe that had only what they Earned by hard Labour, were not exempt from great Impoſitions; nor were they yet free from the Impoſition of Salt, *viz.* from being forced to take it at their prices, what they will think fitting they ſhould ſpend. Secondly, The *Peaſant*, or loweſt ſort of Common People, are more favoured than the reſt, as to Impoſitions; the Tallie being diminiſhed ſome Millions, the manner of leaving it much Regulated, and multitudes made Contributors, that were not heretofore; which is done for two Reaſons:

1. Becauſe there was Neceſſity for it.

2. Becauſe they are the Kings Laws, that are to yield to him daily Increaſe, and therefore to be Encouraged and Cheriſh'd. To which I might add, the Deſign the King hath of altering that Tax, and making it real, by charging it upon the Land, which, by throwing it upon the Gentry, and eaſing the Perſonal Eſtate, he hopes to bring to paſs. Nor hath he been leſs favourable to them in the *Gabel* of Salt, changing, in moſt places, the way of Impoſing it, and contenting himſelf to be the ſole Merchant; to which end he purchaſeth all Salt-pans in private hands, finding, that theſe things were improved by the Partiſans to a deſtruction of the Duty it ſelf; and his People and the Government, is at preſent Vigorous in Execution of Laws, and Impartial in the Execution of Juſtice, Labouring to free the People from the Oppreſſions of all others but the King, and to encourage and render them capable of being a Trading Nation.

What concerns Foreign Intereſt.

I ſhall not ſay much, though I could, it being rather Matter of Hiſtory than Reflection; only this preſent King hath

never omitted his Advantage for any regard of Honour or Faith, either in making of Treaties, or observing of Alliances: The *Militia* of *France* consists either of Maritime, or Land Forces; of the latter, I have no exact Account, but by Computation the King hath fifty or sixty thousand Horse and Foot, since the Disbanding; but according to the best Information, as to the Goodness, I hear they decline daily very much, and that for three respects.

1. The Discipline and Duty being so rigorous, that for want of five men, the Captain shall be cashiered, though they ran away, and he not able to supply it.

2. The Pay is so small, that neither Officer nor Souldier can scarce live upon it, beside Deduction to Horse and Foot for Clothing, Hay and Oats; and the pay of a Captain of Foot, *per diem* being fifty Soulz; a Lieutenant thirty Soulz; Ensign fifteen Soulz; Souldier five Soulz: a Captain of Horse six Livres, Lieutenant three, Cornet two Livres five Soulz.

3. The great Discouragement of old Officers, and new ones too, by the late Disbanding without Pay, and keeping only such in Pay, as were able at their own Charges to keep up their Company; and taking away all Privileges in Muster, or otherwise, for so many Horses, for so many Servants, and their allowance for Table, beside most of their old Boyes are spoiled by Disbanding of part: to which I may add, that the *Switzers*, *Scottish*, and *Protestants* are under such discouragement, that they have almost quitted the Army: but yet to do the King right, he entertains all reformed Officers at half Pay, and daily forbids the sale of Military Offices, and, for the most part, bestows them according to Seniority, unless it be in his Guards, keeps them under good Discipline, Pays punctually, Exercises them frequently, makes them take their turn in *Flanders*; and lastly, gives many considerable Pensions, and the truth is, Endeavours to destroy all other Supports, both of them and of the Nobility and Gentry, and to make them all to depend absolutely upon him and his Pensions.

As

As for the *Militia* by Sea, all that I ſhall ſay by way of Reflection is, that he doth vigorouſly endeavour the Encreaſe and Propagation of Trade and building of Ships, to which end, he is reported to make up his Fleet 100 Sail, and daily encreaſe his Stores, by purchaſing and cutting down Timber he finds fit for it, and alſo hath found out great Store of Maſts of Timber of his own, with Pitch and Tar, procuring men out of *Swethland* to teach the making of it here, ſome Defects I find at preſent, which time may rectifie; his Ships are built too high and too narrow, the Guns carry not above 28 *l.* Bullet: they want Guns, and treat Strangers but ill after they have got them into Service; the Pay of Seamen is but ten Livres a Moneth, wherein Diet is reckoned; this undertaken by each particular Captain; their Gallies worſt ſerved, only by condemned Perſons, which they change perpetually. They have received an Opinion, that by the Goodneſs of Powder, and manner of Charging, that they can make their Guns equal the Force of thoſe which are bigger; and in purſuit hereof, they daily caſt great Guns they find in Gariſons into this Proportion, which may do well enough for Land, but not for Sea Service. To which I may add, the Port he hath cauſed to be built at *Charante*, *Haure* and other Places, he hath laid out ſeveral Millions at *Charante*, but to little Purpoſe, through the Knavery and Indiſcretion of thoſe that are Overſeers, that he is laught at by moſt that ſees it, with a Reparation of Fortifications of the reſt of the Ports and Havens, and the many Works he hath provided in ſeveral Places for the caſting of Ordnance, Anchors, and proviſding Materials for ſhipping and all warlike Munitions, and the great Encouragement he gives to all Gentlemen to go to Sea, and above all theſe the manner whereby he promotes Trade and building Ships of Force by private men, (which ſhall farther be ſhewed under the Head of Trade.) As for the Governour himſelf the King of *France*, I ſhall be ſparing in his Character, becauſe he is ſo well known that I might run the Danger of Flattery, I ſhall only remark the moſt eminent Vertues in him.

1. Industry; being the Doer of all things himself, making choice of fit Instruments to act under him, both for Advice and Execution; not such as can incline him, reserving the Determination and account of all that is done unto himself; and but one day in the Week that he is not personally present in his Councels.

2. A well-stated Reserve in his Comportment; being easie of Access to all men of Business, and incommunicable to all other Familiarities.

3. The great Command over his Passions; which he expresses upon all occasions, and government of his Tongue, whereby he obtains a great Secrecy, and renders his Councels insearchable.

4. His unparallel'd Constancy in these and all other his Measures, not quitting Friendship with any one he hath once made choice of, whether of his Favourite, Ministers, or beloved Mistresses, notwithstanding the unsuccessful Undertakings of the first, as in the business of *Gydgery* in *Africa*, East and West *India* Trade, and new Manufacturies.

To this I may oppose, by way of Balance;

1. His great Parcimony; which may rather serve an Excess of Virtue than of Vice; whereby the Services done to him are not so well rewarded; all the Estates of men depending upon him, not supported, they by that means being Indigent and Discontented. This seems grounded upon the Experiment he had of the Misfortune of his Ancestors, by their contrary Practices, not from any inclination in him to Avarice; which is sufficiently confirmed in him, by his Enterprises, which have alwayes been carefully sustained by his Magnificent Buildings Furniture, and Fortresses, as also by his sumptuous and splendid Entertainments (the Ballad represented five or six Carnavals ago, stood him in 180000 Livres, which is 14000*l*. *Sterling*, with the care he takes to bestow liberal Pensions, Preferments and Rewards, upon such as have deserved well of him in Civil or Military Employments, not suffering them to make any Advantage, or to take one penny more than their Wages or Salary, from any of his Subjects, or others, for

for the discharging of their Offices, and turning them out infallibly, and punishing them severely when they do otherwise, thereby obliging them to Fidelity, Industry, and an absolute Dependency upon him, and by his employing the meaner sort in Buildings, Manufactories, Fortresses, in *Flanders* and *France*, Magazines, new Chanells, Havens, Shipping and Trade at his own Expence, thereby making the Money circulate quick.

2. He is too rigorous in his Discipline and Execution of Laws and Reformation of Business even to a degree of seeming Injust, as the Military Discipline, Treatment of *Fawket* and the *Partizans* Reduction of Offices and Officers do evidence.

3. His personal Vices are too publick to the World, and too open in his own Kingdom, whereby Corruption of Manners is produced in his Court, and amongst the Nobility, even to the spreading it self to all Degrees and Sexes.

4. Amongst his Defects may also be reckoned his not being regardful enough of his Faith and Honour in matters of Alliances where his Interest is concerned.

Concerning Trade.

The Enlargement and Advantage of Trade seems to be one of the greatest Designs of this Crown, nor is there any Cost spared therein; as well appears by these ensuing Particulars.

1. Their Endeavours to enlarge both Foreign and Domestick Trade; as to Foreign, the erecting of *East India* and *West India* and Northern Companies, the encouraging and Countenancing them with great Priviledges, both real and personal, and exempting the Commerce from derogating Nobility, their Commodities from all Inland Duties either Provincial, or Entries into Towns or otherwise.

2. Assisting them with great Sums of Money, *viz.* a fifth part of their Stock, and fifty *Sols* for all Goods outward, and seventy five for all Goods inward, out of his Coffers; en-

gaging all his great Officers with Privilodge of Exemption from Reſidence and Duty there, and impoſing upon all Perſons of Ability, to go a ſhare in the Stock, thereby not only engaging them in point of Intereſt, but Experience and Knowledge of the Trade. As to Domeſtick Trade by encouraging all Manufactors already ſetled here, and introducing all Others, this Nation is capable of, or his Uſe of at his Expence, (he is blamed for attempting alſo ſuch as are not for their Uſe, and which they can never afford at the ſame Rate which others ſell at) as alſo the great advance of the Trade of Silk, Salt, and Linnen, and the ſetting upon the Dutch and foreign Manufactures do ſufficiently evidence.

3. Having reduced all Home Duties into one receit, to ſave the Expence of ſo many Officers, and of Time, is another great Encouragement of Domeſtick Trade; to all theſe I may add, the Advance of Duty upon all Foreign Merchandize, the Defence made againſt all Foreign Manufacturies, the Favouring the Artizan, as to Table; but above all, the Example of the Prince, in confining himſelf to the wearing his Manufacturies, and obliging all his Dependents to the like obſervance, is of great Importance.

4. The Increaſe of Navigation and Shipping is procured by theſe means.

1. Giving 500 *l.* out of his own Cuſtoms, by way of Encouragement for every hundred Tuns of Shipping his Subjects ſhall build, of above 100 Tuns burden, and 400 Livres for all they ſhall buy.

2. Rendring all Perſons incapable in Corporations relating to Trade, that have not an Intereſt in Shipping, to put a proportion appointed to each Officer.

3. Electing an Northern Company to furniſh his Subjects with Proviſions of Shipping at the beſt hand, and alſo endeavouring to find the Materials in his own Countrey, as I have already obſerved.

4. Giving their Shipping Preference of Employment, as the late Edict for Salt ſhews, obliging all his Officers to fraught French

French Ships at ſuch a Rate before any Strangers, as alſo fifty ſoulz *per* Tun impoſed upon Forreign Veſſels.

5. Endeavouring to make his Subjects ſole Merchants of all Trades, as well imported as exported, and not only by the Priviledges already mentioned upon their Commodities and Ships, but alſo by putting all manner of Diſcouragements upon all Foreign Factories and Merchants by Difficulty in their Diſpatches, delayes in point of Juſtice, ſubjecting them to Foreign Duties and Seizures, not ſuffering them to be Factors to the French or any other Nation but their own, and in caſe of Death to have their Eſtates ſeized as *Aliens*, and the Countenance and conceiving the *French* have as to all Duty when employ'd in the Service of Foreigners.

6. The great Care taken to ſet the Poor on Work, to the Increaſe of Trade, and diſburdening the reſt of their Fellow-Subjects, as Work-houſes over all *France* manifeſteth; but eſpecially at *Paris*, and at *Lyons*, which hath *Hoſtels de Dieu*, far better than a Tax to ſupport them in Idleneſs.

The Care taken to Encourage Foreigners to Travel, or abide in France, *and ſo increaſe the number of Subjects, as ſheweth*:

1. By a general Naturalization of all Nations, except *Engliſh*, *Iriſh*, and *Spaniſh*; the People of *Flanders* are comprized in that benefit.

2. Convenient Academies, Schools, Colleges, Penſions and Tables *de Hoſtes*.

3. Convenient Paſſages, by Meſſages, Coaches, and Boats.

4. Impartial and ſpeedy Juſtice to all Strangers, as well as their own Subjects, eſpecially in Courts-Merchants, and before their Commiſſaries, conſidering Contracts made by Strangers; to which I may add, the late care of ſetting up Poſts Places.

For every Winter the King does not keep his Court at *Paris*, he is obliged by Covenant to abate ſixteen hundred thouſand Livres to thoſe that Farm his Exciſe for that Place.

In two years time, ſoon after the Kings Marriage, when the King-

Kingdom was in Peace, the King drew from the *Parisians* six score Millions of Livres.

Some Defects and Difficulties in the way of their Trade managed.

1. The Wealth of the *Burgois* seem inconsistent with the Policy of this Monarch.

2. The Arbitrariness of the Tallies discourageth the meaner sort, seeking after no more than suplying absolute Necessity, and makes Towns fearful ro receive new Manufactures for fear of Increase of their Tallies.

3. The Prejudice the Trade lies under as to the Nobility, being inconsistent with it, the Policy of this Monarch designing them all for Arms and Art, and not for Trade.

4. The unsettledness of the Books of Rates and great Arbitrariness of the Kings Officers and Farmers, which are too much favoured by Laws.

5. The present Policie admits not of any Corporations of Trade to be Elective.

6. Want of able Merchants amongst them, and putting the Directions of all their present Companies, into the Hands of Persons ignorant in Trade, Favourites of the present Ministers; whereby they have lost the third part of the Stock of the *East India* Company already, making all the new Manufactures Monopolies, whereby most of them are come to nothing, as that of Silk-Stockens and Cloth.

7. The Encrease of Church-men and Souldiers, with the Design this Monarchy hath of enlarging it self by new Acquisitions at Land.

Lastly, The natural Idleness and Luxury these People are addicted unto, but that Necessity forceth them to the contrary, together with the forcing them to enter into Companies of Trade, and imposing their new Manufactures upon Places and Buyers, with the evil Treatment of those Strangers, that teach them after they have once learned their Trade, and the Difficulty of finding a Market and Credit, (which attends

all

all new Beginners) eſpecially where others are in poſſeſſion of Trade, are Obſtructions not eaſily conquered; yet ſhould the Project hold, of making the Tally hold real, and Salt Merchantable, ſucceed, and Trade and Manufacturies be made free, and the Book of Rates be Regulated, under the preſent Encouragements; and the great Advantage of the cheapneſs of Work, and great Induſtry of Workmen, it were much to be feared, that the reſt of the Difficulties would be overcome.

Since I wrote this, the King hath paſſed an Edict, declaring, That the Trade of Merchandize never ought to have been, nor never ſhould be, in any time to come, eſteemed a Derogation to Nobility; and Ennobling it with many Privileges, and by the diminution of the Profits and Privileges of all Charges Military and Civil (as I have before obſerved) endeavouring to Neceſſitate the Gentry, and Sons of the Nobility themſelves to Merchandiſe.

Concerning Revenue.

The whole Revenue of the Crown is Eighty Millions; all Charges deducted, comes to ſixty Millions of Livres yearly, not poſſible to be augmented; the Clergy, Nobility, and Partizans being already pared and pilled, the Tallies and Gabals in moſt places, upon the meaner ſort, being ſo far ſtretcht, that they require abatement: Eſpecially in reſpect of Ceſſation of War, and Interruption of Trade with Foreigners, by reaſon of their new Projects about Trade; but in general, this I muſt ſay, that there never was more care taken in managing of the Kings Revenues by Superiour, as well as Inferiour Officers, and am informed, that the Tally is ſo regulated, that the Expence in Levying it comes not to above a twentieth part; but its Arbitrary manner of Collecting the Tally, is thus: The King ſends down to the Intendant what he intends to Levy upon the Province by way of Tally; the Intendant conſulting the Elect of each Diviſion, returns up word what he thinks it able to bear that year, with the reaſons thereof; then the King fixeth the Sum; then the Elects are convened to diſtribute the Sum upon each Diviſion; And laſtly, the Intendant

adviseth with the Elect; fixes the Sum upon each Parish, as he pleaseth, (which is practised very Arbitrary) and also appoints the Assessors in the Parish, (who are answerable for the Taxes upon the Parish out of their own Estates) and may impose the same Arbitrarily upon their Neighbours, yet most of them of any Substance take their Turns, and are much regulated by new Edicts, in imposing and levying the same. If there be any complaint made, that the Parish is over-burdened, the Remedy is by Petition to the Intendant, who, upon Examination, doth as he sees cause; and the Appeal from him is only to the King, which is rarely or never practised; for those that are great men, and concerned at Court, are alwayes favoured by the Intendant, and for the rest he matters them not. The Intendant, as I said before, is an Officer Elected to Govern and Oversee the Affairs of the Revenue and Finances, but his Power is since inlarged to Examine and Determine all Complaints concerning the good Government of the Province, and every Member, and now lately to oversee the new Manufacturies and Trade, and all other things, except the *Militia*, and he gives a constant Account to the King by a Master of Requests, of the Estate of the Province, and Trade, and of all such Grievances, Inconveniences, and Complaints, as are not in his Power to remedy, and is become a very necessary Officer; yet rarely any of Quality is preferred to this Imployment, but men Industrious, bred up to the Law. If there be any complaint between the Assessours and their Neighbours, this is determined at the Court of the Elect. Now it is to be known, these Elects are certain Officers, who buy their Offices, and are appointed by the King for each Division, though possibly in their beginning they were elected by each Division. There lies an Appeal from them to the Courts of Aids, where also Process issues forth against the Assessors, if any Sum be behind; which Courts are assisted with the Chamber of Accounts; these hold Plea generally of all Matters relating to the Revenue, and the Edicts concerning the same, are now used to be Registred there, and not in Parliament.

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An Account of the Clergy, and their Revenue.

The *Roman Church* of *France* hath in it fourteen Arch-bishopricks, *viz. Lyons, Sens Anches, Arles, Remis, Bourdeaux, Tholouse, Burgers, Narbone, Aixe, Vienne, Roan, Paris.*

Under which are contained 95 Bishopricks, 120000 Parishes, or Cures; it hath 1356 Abbies, 12400 Priories, 256 Commanders of *Malta*, 452000 Monasteries, that have all Chaplains; besides the Monasteries of Religious Women, of which the number is 557. Beside these, there are 700 Convents of *Cordelis*, without comprehending the *Jacobins* and *Carmelites*, the *Augustines*, the *Charteva*, the *Belistines*, the *Jesuits*, the *Minims*, and other Religious Houses, the Number whereof is 14078 which Ecclesiasticks possess, 9000 Castles, Pallaces and Houses, which have high, mean, and low Justice.

They have also 259000 large Farmes and 10000 Arpans of Vines, so that it is found that the Revenue of the Church, *per annum*, amounts to 312 Millions of Livres.

Concerning the Manners of the People.

The Nobility and Gentry (unless it be such as are assured of Ecclesiastical Preferment) are Unlearned, yet generally well bred, and very capable of the Court and Camp, or Charges belonging to the Law.

The Gentry, when they are past the Grammar-School, are usually sent to the Academies, where they learn to ride the great Horse, Dance, Fence, and some of them some part of the Mathematicks; especially Fortifications.

The *Burgois* are very Ingenious, the Artisan and Peasant very Laborious, of which latter sort, not a hand is Idle from break of Day till dark Night; all, except the great Nobility and Gentry, Devout; they are Civil to Strangers, Servile to their Prince, and Good to their Relations and Families.

Their Defects and Vices.

They are superficially Learned, or knowing nought but Law, Physick, Chirurgery, and Art of War, horribly addicted to Luxury, and Vices of the Court, as plain Building, great Trains, Courtship and Entertainments, which seems to be the Butt and Scope of all men of all Degrees, except Peasants; Proud, Boasters, Despisers of others, Envious of their Superiours, and Tyrannical to their Inferiours; Slighting in their Friendship, Unreasonable in their Askings, Unjust in their Dealing, extreamly given to Law-Suits, and Exacting upon Strangers, joyn'd with a Court-Confidence, from the Highest to the lowest. The Sum of all; they imploy themselves to a Court-Deportment, are not Naturally Industrious, except to acquire mony for their Luxury; which the Peasant also would be inclined unto, were not his Condition such as puts him in despair of it.

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As to the Countrey; the Air is generally very wholsom, the Towns well built, the Soil very fruitful, and well improved in all but Herbage, abounding in small Walled Towns and Burroughs, through the multiplicity of Lords that shar'd the Lands, now generally decayed, an ill People, delicious Companies, and full of Elegant Seats and Country-Houses, generally small, but embellished with Groves and fine Gardens; the great Cities are full of Sumptuous Buildings, well Peopled, and over-run with the Religious, with Officers of all kinds, and small Artizans: there is abundance of Wealth, but collected no where but in the Crown; the rest, the Lawyers, Clergy, and Officers hitherto have the best share.

Reflections on the Alliance of France, *and its Foreign Interest.*

They are suspected by all their Neighbours at present, though some, out of Necessity or Interest, are forced to depend on them; such are the Princes of the *Rhyne*, and the King of *Portugal*, the Dukes of *Savoy* and *Lorraign*, the *Dutch*, in Case of Difference with *England*, the *Dane* is generally opposed to the *Swedes*, and joyned to *Holland*, the *Pole* upon the Defensive against the *Swede*, *Moscovite*, and the *Cosack*, the *Swede* and *Swiss*, upon Occasion for Money, if not otherwise imployed; the *Italian* perfectly *Spanish*, except the Duke of *Modena*; the *Turk*, upon occasion, may make a Diversion upon the Empire with these several Respects; they regard *France*, whose great Hopes that *England* will be corrupted, as it hath been hitherto with the Designs of changing the Government, their flattering Hopes of Assistance in that Behalf, are also to ruine the *Dutch*, and make us sharers in *Flanders*, beside the Sums of Money to assist the King in his Necessities; and to corrupt his Ministers, are the Baites by which they have hitherto prevailed, and hope still to catch us. As for their Tripple Alliance, their present Design is, to get an Opportunity to fortifie *Flanders*, subdue all *Parties* and *Interest* at Home, settle the Revenue of the Crown, to keep up a considerable Army alwayes in Preparation, to take Advantage of the first Occasion, and to oblige the *Spaniard* to a constant Charge of entertaining the *Swede*; by keeping us from all further Occasion, to render us cool in the Prosecution of Alliances, unprofitable to the *Spaniard*, burthensome to our selves, without Prospect of future Advantage, and to give us Leisure of dividing among our selves. To this I may add, the fomenting the Duke of *York*'s Interest, and *Don Ivans* in *Spain*, and their Pretence in Weakening the *Dutch*, in directing their Trade by their new Impositions, and new introduced Manufactories, whilst we in our Manufactures suffer most by them, the *Dutch* looking well enough to themselves and their Concerns.

Paris May 12th. SIR, Your most Humble Servant.

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